
SENATE BILL 6141

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senators Fraser, Winsley, Kastama, Costa, Fairley, Gardner, Eide, Haugen, Jacobsen, Constantine, Prentice, Shin, Rasmussen, Sheahan, Swecker, Oke, Zarelli, Roach and Kohl-Welles; by request of Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Treasurer, Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Auditor, Secretary of State, Commissioner of Public Lands and Insurance Commissioner

Read first time 03/07/2001. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to an annual cost-of-living increase for state
2 employees; adding a new section to chapter 41.04 RCW; creating a new
3 section; and declaring an emergency.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Providing quality public services for all
6 citizens of the state requires well-qualified and experienced state
7 employees. However, salaries for state employees have not kept up with
8 the increased cost-of-living in the state. The failure to keep up with
9 inflation threatens Washington's ability to compete with other sectors
10 to attract first-rate employees to Washington state public service and
11 to retain well-qualified employees from leaving for other employment
12 opportunities. The state must provide a fair and reasonable cost-of-
13 living increase to ensure that the state attracts and retains the best
14 employees for the citizens of Washington ensuring public safety,
15 government efficiency, and program quality.

16 It is the intent of the legislature that state employees described
17 in section 2 of this act receive an annual salary cost-of-living
18 increase identical to the cost-of-living increase for school district
19 and community college employees pursuant to Initiative Measure No. 732.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 41.04 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 (1) State employees shall be provided an annual salary cost-of-
4 living increase in accordance with this section.

5 (2)(a) Beginning July 1, 2001, and on each July 1st thereafter,
6 state employees shall receive a salary cost-of-living increase. The
7 increase amount shall be determined by the office of financial
8 management on June 15th of each year by using the cost-of-living index
9 under subsection (3) of this section.

10 (b) For purposes of this section, "state employees" means all
11 classified employees, employees of institutions of higher education
12 under the jurisdiction of chapter 41.56 RCW pursuant to the provisions
13 of RCW 28B.16.015, and including those employees in the Washington
14 management service, and exempt employees under the jurisdiction of the
15 personnel resources board; general government, legislative, and
16 judicial employees exempt from merit system rules whose maximum
17 salaries are not set by the commission on salaries for elected
18 officials; and ferry workers.

19 (c) For purposes of this section, "state employees" does not
20 include: State officers and officials whose salaries are set by the
21 commission for salaries for elected officials; state employees who
22 receive an annual salary cost-of-living increase pursuant to Initiative
23 Measure No. 732; certificated employees of the state schools for the
24 deaf and blind; and instructional and research faculty, academic
25 administrators, academic librarians, counselors, and teaching and
26 research assistants at state universities, regional universities, and
27 state colleges described in RCW 28B.10.016, whose salaries are
28 determined by the governing boards of such institutions.

29 (3) For the purposes of this section, "cost-of-living index" means,
30 for any fiscal year, the previous calendar year's annual average
31 consumer price index, using the official current base, compiled by the
32 bureau of labor statistics, United States department of labor for the
33 state of Washington. If the bureau of labor statistics develops more
34 than one consumer price index for areas within the state, the index
35 covering the greatest number of people, covering areas exclusively
36 within the boundaries of the state, and including all items shall be
37 used for the cost-of-living index in this section.

38 (4) The office of financial management shall calculate and include
39 an appropriation to fund this annual salary cost-of-living increase in

1 the biennium budget proposal to the legislature under chapter 43.88
2 RCW. Any funded cost-of-living increase shall be included in the
3 salary base used to determine cost-of-living increases for all state
4 employees in subsequent years.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate
6 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
7 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
8 immediately.

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